DATELINE #113 MIAMI
RUSSELL SPLANE

SEPTEMBER 15, 1976

LATINS IN FLORIDA

ANNCR: DATELINE, MIAMI . . . PICTURES IN SOUND, WORDS AND MUSIC OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN AND AROUND AMERICA'S SOUTHEASTERN METROPOLIS. TODAY. VOA CORRESPONDENT RUSSELL SPLANE'S REPORT ON POPULATION CHANGES IN FLORIDA.

VOICE: NOW POPULATION ESTIMATES, -- COVERING THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD FROM 1970 TO 1975 -- SHOW THAT THE LATIN POPULATION IN FLORIDA'S SOUTHERN DADE COUNTY, WHICH INCLUDES THE MIAMI METROPOLITAN COMPLEX HAS RISEN TO ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND PEOPLE. THIS IS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SINCE 1970 AND IT MEANS THAT LATINS NOW COMPRISE ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL DADE COUNTY POPULATION.

WHILE THE LATINS WERE POSTING A FIVE-YEAR GAIN OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, THE NON-LATINS IN DADE COUNTY WERE INCREASING THEIR NUMBERS BY LESS THAN SEVEN THOUSAND. THIS MEANS THE LATIN POPULATION IN DADE COUNTY IS GROWING TWENTY-SIX TIMES FASTER THAN THE NON-LATINS. AT THE TIME OF THE 1970 CENSUS, LATINS COMPRISED LESS THAN ONE-FOURTH OF THE COUNTY POPULATION AS AGAINST THE NEARLY ONE-THIRD THEY REPRESENT NOW.

THE LATIN POPULATION IN FLORIDA'S DADE COUNTY BEGAN WITH THE CUBAN INFLUX INTO FLORIDA AFTER THE RISE OF FIDEL CASTRO IN CUBA. THE CUBAN IMMIGRATION BECAME A STEADY FLOW DURING THE U.S.-SPONSORED CUBAN AIRLIFT

VOICE: (CONT) WHICH BROUGHT ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY PERSONS A DAY TO MIAMI. BUT EVEN AFTER THE END OF THE AIRLIFT IN 1973 THE FLOW OF CUBANS INTO SOUTHERN FLORIDA HAS CONTINUED. MANY OF THE LATEST ARRIVALS TRAVELED FROM CUBA TO THE U.S. VIA SPAIN. OTHERS WERE CUBANS WHO SETTLED FIRST IN THE NORTHERN UNITED STATES -- PARTICULARLY IN NEW JERSEY -- THEN DECIDED TO MOVE SOUTH AND JOIN THEIR COMPATRIOTS IN FLORIDA.

THE NEW FIGURES ON DADE COUNTY'S LATIN GROWTH COINCIDE WITH NEW NATIONAL ESTIMATES WHICH SHOW THE STATE OF FLORIDA HAS GAINED MORE RESIDENTS THAN ANY STATE IN THE UNION DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS DECADE. FROM 1970 TO 1975 FLORIDA GAINED ONE-POINT-FIVE MILLION RESIDENTS. THE SECOND FASTEST GROWING STATE WAS CALIFORNIA WITH ONE-POINT-ONE MILLION NEW RESIDENTS.

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